

40. A method of capturing and analyzing images of cells or cell structures from multiple cell holders, each comprising a plurality of sites in a spatial orientation, each of the sites being capable of holding a plurality of cells to be imaged, the method comprising:

retrieving a first cell holder with a robot arm;

illuminating at least a portion of the first cell holder in a relatively even spatial manner for image capturing purposes, wherein light is provided to the first cell holder via a liquid light guide;

capturing an image of the cells or cell structures in an illuminated region of the first cell holder; and

analyzing the image and characterizing features of the cells or cell structures in the image.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising, reading a bar code from the first cell holder.

42. The method of claim 40, performing an automatic focus prior to capturing the image.

43. The method of claim 40, further comprising creating and sequentially naming files of the images of cells or cell structures.

44. The method of claim 40, further comprising selecting a filter and using said filter to filter light provided via the liquid light guide.--

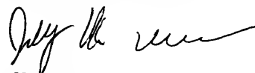
REMARKS

The amendment to the specification is supported by the text found at page 22, lines 23-24 of US Patent Application No. 09/310,879, filed on the same day as the instant application, invented by James H. Sabry, Cynthia L. Adams, Eugeni A. Vaisberg, and Anne M. Crompton, and titled "A DATABASE SYSTEM FOR PREDICTIVE CELLULAR BIOINFORMATICS." US Patent Application No. 09/310,879 was incorporated by reference in the present patent application. See the "Cross Reference to Related Applications" section (page 1, lines 8-10). The amendment to the specification adds no new matter.

The new claims add no new matter. Regarding pertinent limitations of claims 29 and 40, support for the robot arm limitation is found at page 13, lines 11-12, for example. Support for the image analysis elements is found at page 20, lines 12-34 and page 24, line 13 to page 33, line 20, for example.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey K. Weaver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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